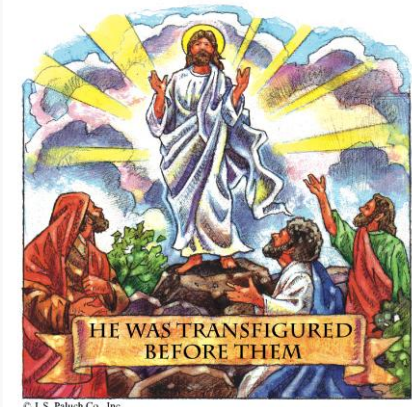


## March 1, 2026 Second Sunday of Lent



### NEW BEGINNINGS

Ever since I was a child, I've loved the first day of school. In a new dress and new shoes, I got to see old friends, walk on shiny floors, and smell new books. As a teacher I still loved the first day of school. I'd spend the summer honing some creative ideas into sure-to-succeed lesson plans that I couldn't wait to try out. Now that I have my own children, I *really* love the first day of school. I get to reclaim the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room! I dig deep into the corners with Lysol® and start fresh. New beginnings. That's what we see in today's readings. God promises Abram a rich heritage and numerous descendants. All he has to do is leave home. The Transfiguration is one of the most awesome changes recorded in scripture. Change reminds us that we are on a journey. Faith reminds us that we are not alone. God goes with us.

### COMMENT

God initiates the dialogue with Abram, calling him to a new beginning, a fresh start away from home. Abram obeys, but why? Not because God promises a large number of descendants (although God does), but because Abram simply chooses to obey. In the second reading, Timothy struggles with the call. Paul, the person he looks up to, is in prison. "How degrading to be in contact with a common criminal!" But it is a "common criminal" who hangs from the cross at Golgotha. Some time before that event, three apostles witness a tremendous change in Jesus, the dazzling face and white clothing. With him are Moses and Elijah also enveloped in radiant white light. Peter, James, and John, with Jesus at the Transfiguration, will also be there at Gethsemane.

The high mountain is a meeting place. God comes down and the disciples go up. It is a logical place to worship and so Peter prostrates himself and suggests building three tents. Jesus touches Peter, James, and John and tells them to rise up and not be afraid. He sends them off to a new beginning just as he sends us, to go forth as disciples.

### REFLECTION

God has called each of us to a faith journey. It is God who initiates in us the desire to follow, just as it was God who called Abram and Timothy, and Jesus who gathered the disciples. Nowhere does God ever say the journey will be easy. There was much to suffer for Abram, for Jesus and the disciples, and yes, for us, too.

We can begin our new faith journey with different reactions. You recall that we don't hear Abram complain in Genesis. He obeys God's call without question. It's a marvel how people like Abram and Sarah have such faith, hope, and obedience. In our society today, "speaking our mind" and "being heard" are encouraged instead. Timothy, on the other hand, was reluctant. He procrastinated and avoided Paul. He was embarrassed that Paul was in prison. It is the Gospel, however, that has the power to change us and to mark new beginnings in our lives. How will we respond to God's call?

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38  
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23;  
Mt 23:1-12  
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16;  
Mt 20:17-28  
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31  
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21;  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
Sunday: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8;  
Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

### Lenten Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence

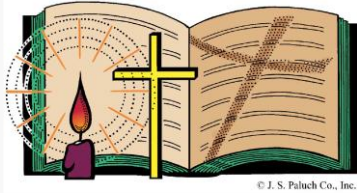
**Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are obligatory days of both **fast and abstinence from meat**.

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal per day. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may also be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. For members of our Latin Catholic Church, **the norms on fasting are obligatory from the 18th birthday until the 59th birthday**.

**All Fridays of Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat.**

Abstinence means not eating the meat of warm-blooded animals (such as beef, lamb, chicken, and pork). Fish and all cold-blooded animals may be eaten (such as shrimp, frogs, and clams). **All those who have reached their 14th birthday and older are bound by the law of abstinence from meat.**

Abstinence from meat on other Fridays of the year is recommended but not required.



**Saturday, February 28th -**

**5:00PM-IHM – For the People of Nolan County**

**Sunday, March 1st -**

**8:00AM – IHM +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira; +Marcelino Rodriguez; In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Arianni Martinez and Nayely Hernandez**

**11:00AM – IHM In thanksgiving for Frs. Josh’s birthday; +Sam Ramirez & +Jaime Montealvo**

**Tuesday, March 3rd 9:00AM - HF**

Communion Service

**Wednesday, March 4th 6:00PM - IHM**

Communion Service

**Thursday, March 5th 9:00AM-HF**

Communion Service

**Friday, March 6th 9:00AM HF**

Communion Service

**Saturday, March 7th -**

**5:00PM-IHM – Guadalupanas living and deceased; In thanksgiving for Mikenna Ashley’s birthday;**

**+Felipe Gallegos, Mary Torres, Eddie and Ray Longoria, Jr.; +Elva Delacruz**

**7:00PM Por la gente de Nolan County**

**Sunday, March 8th -**

**8:00AM – IHM +Christopher Cardoza;**

**+Ysidro Ramirez; en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Isaac Ray Sims y Stephanie Rubio**

**11:00AM – IHM +Miguel Ortiz, Tomasita Alcaras, Alfonso, Sara & Benjamin Gonzales; +Vicky Soto; In thanksgiving for Olusegun Falana’s birthday**

**RELIGION CLASSES ---**

- Sunday Classes 9:30 - 10:40A.M.
- Wednesday Classes 7:00 - 8:30P.M
- OCIA –Thursdays, 6pm at HF Hall, 507 Crane St.

**PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets Sunday, March 1st, 4:00pm, Holy Family Hall.**

**February 21/22, 2026 COLLECTION DATA**

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$3,625.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1,815.00
Black & Indian Mission.....	654.00
ASH WEDNESDAY (Parish).....	2,184.47
Central & Eastern Europe (Ash Wednesday).....	499.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION.....</b>	<b>\$8,777.47</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE**

March 7 Grupo Misionero March 14 Guadalupanas

**“Happy Birthday Fr. Josh!”** Father’s birthday is Tuesday, March 3rd. We will celebrate with Fr. Josh next Sunday, March 8th, after the 11:00 o’clock Mass in the parish hall. **Please bring a covered dish of your choice.**

“Thank you Fr. Josh for your leadership and faithful ministry. You are greatly appreciated for all that you do. May God bless you richly!” ¡Felicidades!

**ANNUAL PRIESTS’ RETREAT** Fr. Josh will be attending the Diocesan Annual Priests’ Retreat, March 2nd – 6th. Please pray for all our priests.

**WHY AM I CATHOLIC?-** Deacon Bill’s sharing session is back on schedule beginning this week, Tuesday, March 3rd, and continuing every Tuesday at his home, @6:00pm. **All are invited!**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Via Crucis -** all Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm followed by soup/snacks at the Parish Hall @Immaculate Heart. Hosting this week is the Guadalupana Society.

**FIRST FRIDAY FIRST FRIDAY –** March 6th, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00 pm at Holy Family. Confession is available.

**ULTREYA MEETINGS**

Sunday, February 22nd - 6:00pm (*English*)

Monday, February 23rd - 7:00pm (*Spanish*)

Both at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit

<http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

**PENANCE SERVICES** in the surrounding area:

*All Penance Services begin at 6:30pm.*

**March**

10 – St. Mary Queen of Peace, Brownwood

12 – St. Ann Parish, Colorado City

18 – St. Vincent Pallotti, Abilene

19 – Sacred Heart, Abilene

25 – Sacred Heart, Coleman

26 - St. Francis, Abilene

**April 01 – Holy Spirit, Sweetwater**

The Gospel of Life is “meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!” (The Gospel of Life 5).

Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae. © 1995 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.

**IN APPRECIATION –** Thank you Fr. Josh and Deacon Bill for celebrating the funeral Mass for our daughter, Liz. To our cousin Nanette & faithful friend--for the beautiful music, & to Deacon David--for your services, we thank and appreciate you. Our gratitude to the Guadalupanas and to all for the food, prayers, love & support.

May God bless you – *Richard & Olivia Torres & Family*

## **Prayer of St. Francis**

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

ASSISI, Italy (OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, highlighting the saint's enduring message of peace, holiness, and care for creation. The Vatican declared a Year of St. Francis that runs from Jan. 10 of this year through Jan. 10, 2027. During the jubilee, Catholics may receive plenary indulgences under the usual conditions, including through pilgrimages to Franciscan churches worldwide or spiritual participation by the sick and homebound. In a letter marking the opening of the jubilee in Assisi, Pope Leo said St. Francis' witness is urgently needed in a world marked by war, division, and environmental harm. The first public display of St. Francis' body will be in Assisi this spring. The overwhelming number of people coming for the public display, is a testament to "the universality of the message of the Saint of Assisi and the timeless appeal of his figure."

*West Texas Angelus Feb. 2026*